

Abstract

Method for measuring the presence or absence of chemical groups, in particular
5 phosphate groups, attached to biological molecules in a sample in which these
molecules are tagged with fluorescent markers and these fluorescent markers
are activated by means of irradiating the sample with light. The method is char-
acterized by the following steps: a) Use of a fluorescent marker, the fluorescence
lifetime of which assumes a different value depending upon the presence or ab-
10 sence of phosphate groups attached to the biomolecule; b) Measurement of the
fluorescence lifetime of the fluorescent marker attached to a biomolecule and
selected in accordance with Step a); c) Classification of the biomolecules in ac-
cordance with the presence or absence of phosphate groups attached to these,
based on the different lifetime of each.

15

(Fig. 1)